AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-13.   (Canceled)

14.   (Currently amended) In a cinematographic system for creation of a film and/or video production, wherein the action figures are controlled by rods manipulated by puppeteers on a virtual production set, the improvement comprising:

a virtual production set, including a key-colored background screen, a stage, and at least one action puppet character manipulated by puppeteers on said virtual production set;

said action puppet character being positioned on a support structure, said support structure being arranged to provide a desired vertical location on said key-colored background screen for said action puppet character, and including the use of diffused lighting in said support structure to eliminate shadows on said virtual production set;

at least two (2) cameras, each of said cameras being positioned relative to an action puppet character to record, in real-time, at least two action images of said puppet character, or two different puppet characters on said virtual production set, each of said two action images of said puppet character being taken at the same time from a different camera angle, one image being a close-up shot and one image being a master shot and each of said two action images of said two different puppet characters being taken at different times on the same virtual production set or at the same time on two separate but identical virtual production sets;

means for recording the position of the camera taking the master shot image within the virtual production set relative to the action puppet character;

means for simultaneously compositing each of said real-time images with the master shot image being composited with a suitable virtual background image and the close-up shot image being composited with a digitally created still image; from each of said cameras with a virtual image or a digitally created backplate; and

means for simultaneously compositing each of said composited images in a multiple composite image, said composite images being integrated by separate compositing modules, so that each composited image appears within an allocated portion of a given image frame, and each allocated portion of said image frame being adjusted relative to one another to create depth and/or perspective of one composited image relative to the other, said allocated portion of said image frame being adjusted relative to one another to create interaction and/or complimentary action of one puppet character, or puppet character image, from one composited image with another puppet character, or puppet character image, from another composited image with a given image frame.

15.   (Currently amended) In a method for the production of an action cinematographic composition wherein action figures, which are included in the production, are puppets controlled by rods which are manipulated by puppeteers on a virtual production set, the improvement comprising:

providing a virtual production set, including a key-colored background screen, a stage and at least one action puppet character manipulated by puppeteers on said virtual production set;

providing at least two (2) cameras, each of said cameras being positioned relative to an action puppet character to record, in real-time, at least two images of said puppet character, or two different puppet characters, on said virtual production set, each of said two images of said puppet character being taken at the same time from a different cameral angle, one image being a close-up shot and one image being a master shot and each of said two images of said two different puppet characters being taken at different times on the same virtual production set or at the same time on two separate but identical virtual production sets;

positioning said action puppet character on a support structure in front of said key-color background screen to provide a desired vertical location for said action puppet character on said key-color background screen;

providing diffused lighting in said support structure in order to eliminate shadows on said virtual production set;

simultaneously recording said action image or image sequence of said puppet character or characters with each of said cameras,

recording the position of the camera taking the master shot image within the virtual production set relative to the action puppet character;

simultaneously compositing the master shot image with a suitable virtual background image and the close-up shot image with a digitally created still image each recorded image with a virtual or digitally created image; and

simultaneously compositing each of said composited images with one another in a multiple composite image, wherein said compositing step comprises integrating each of said composite images from a separate compositing module, so that each composited image appears within an allocated portion of a given image frame, and each allocated portion of said image frame is adjusted relative to one another to adjust the depth and/or perspective of one composited image relative to the other, and allocating a portion of said image frame relative to one another portion of said image frame so as to create interaction and/or complimentary action of one puppet character, or puppet character image, from one composited image with another puppet character or puppet character image from another composited image with a given image frame.